

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 11-15 having been previously canceled, Claims 9, 10 and 16-25 are now presented for examination. Claims 9, 10 and 16-22 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention, in terms which distinguish over the art of record. Claims 16 and 22 are the only independent claims.

Claims 10 and 19 have been objected to in that an improper antecedent basis was provided for the term “the position” in Claim 10 and for the term “the direction” in Claim 19. In Claim 10 as currently amended, the term “a position” replaces the objected-to “the position” and, in Claim 19 as currently amended, the term “a direction” replaces the objected-to “the direction”.

Claims 9, 10 and 16-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, in that the term “heat exchanger” of the claims is not disclosed in the specification. With regard to the claims as currently amended, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 16 as currently amended is directed to a stage apparatus in which a moving unit is movable along the surface of a base plate. A linear motor that drives the moving unit has a coil unit in the moving unit and a gas bearing supports the moving unit on the base plate. A cooling unit that cools the coil unit is provided in the moving unit. The cooling unit cools the gas used by the gas bearing.

Independent Claim 22 as currently amended is directed to a stage apparatus in which a first moving unit is movable along the surface of a base plate. A linear motor which drives the first moving unit includes a coil unit in the first moving unit. A second moving unit moves with

respect to the first moving unit. A cooling unit disposed between the first and second moving units absorbs heat transmission from the coil unit to the second moving unit.

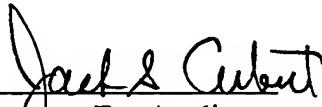
In Claims 16 and 22 as currently amended, the objected-to term “heat exchanger” has been replaced by the term “cooling unit”. The term “cooling unit” in Claims 16 and 22 corresponds to the cooling unit 5L disclosed in the specification with respect to the embodiments shown in Figs. 1 through 4 and is disclosed at least at paragraph [0034] as a temperature controller. Claims 9 and 17-21 have also been amended to replace the objected-to term “heat exchanger” with “cooling unit”. Accordingly, it is believed that Claims 9, 10 and 16-25 fully meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, and are allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants further submit that this Amendment After Final Action clearly places this application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicants believed that the prior Amendment placed the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of the instant Amendment, as an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is requested under 37 CFR 1.116.

Applicant's attorney, Steven E. Warner, may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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